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TO:

Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: THE RATIFICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENTS

Ratification of the Paris agreements by most signatory countries awaits action by France and Germany, despite the assurances of British ratification conveyed by the 264-4 vote in the House of Commons on 18 November. The French National Assembly and the West German Bundestag are scheduling the agreements for debate and final vote during the period of 14-17 December. The Benelux countries and Italy were expected to take similar action around the first of the year; however, recent developments with respect to the Saar may jeopardize the timetable of ratification and increase the hazards for favorable action on the treaties themselves. Opponents of the treaties, particularly in France and Italy, are also likely to use the British Labor Party's failure to support the government in the House of Commons vote as a means of stimulating sentiment against German rearmament.

In France, the ratification procedure has progressed to the point where the text of a bill covering protocols on (1) the Brussels Treaty, (2) termination of the occupation statute, (3) NATO accession of Italy and Germany, and (4) forces convention with various other agreements, resolutions, etc., has been sent to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. No action has been taken, however, to bring the Saar agreement to the Committee's attention either as an annex to the bill or for separate consideration. Unless the Government submits the Saar agreement to the Committee within the next two weeks, chances of the bill's reaching the Assembly floor between 14 and 17 December are slight. It is the only protocol on which substantive or procedural pitfalls are anticipated, since the Assembly is determined to examine the agreement rigorously and in detail. The Council of the Republic must raise objections to the lower house's decision within two months or also let it stand, and in any event the Assembly has the final word.

State Dept. review completed

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Paris agreements to the Bundestag in the form of four bills pertaining respectively to German sovereignty, NATO membership, Western European Union, and the Saar. It appears that the four bills will be voted on separately, and the first three will probably be supported by the entire coalition with only the Social Democrats in opposition. With regard to the Saar Adenauer has run into considerable trouble.	25X1

Until France and Germany act on the Paris agreements there is little chance that the remaining countries will move to ratify. The Italian Government has asked "urgency consideration" for the agreements, and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies is expected to begin study of the matter on 22 November. Final action by the Chamber around 20 December is being sought by the Foreign Ministry with the outlook for parliamentary ratification by the end of January considered generally good by the American Embassy in Rome. The Netherlands Government will definitely not take action before the Christmas recess and proposals for a parliamentary debate will be considered sometime in January. The Belgian Government is not optimistic about a

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parliamentary vote before Christmas, and in any case the Belgian Senate will not act until the French have ratified. The Luxembourg Government has no definite plans for ratification but intends to await the outcome of final action in both France and Germany.

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